

plainly, was to get on to it, himself In 1891, accordingly, he resigned the post in the Colonial Office which he had occupied for ten years His economic basis, on his very modest standard, was secured he had saved enough to provide, with writing, the necessary resources He settled down to winning Deptford for the Progressives at the 1892 L C C Election, and for Deptford, when the election came, he was elected, by a very large majority

This change in the form and circumstances of his life marks the end of an epoch in it It coincided with an event even more important, which carried with it a much more far-reaching change From his own personal point of view, the most significant reaction from the publication of *Fabian Essays* was that produced in the mind of a brilliant young woman, to whom an early copy had been sent by a friend In a drawing-room in Monmouthshire, she read it from cover to cover, in sending it on, to be read by another friend, she remarked

"By far the most significant and interesting essay is that by Sidney Webb he has the historic sense "

The first, if still distant, contact between Beatrice Potter and Sidney Webb had, actually, occurred some months before this In *The Star* he wrote a review of the first volume of Charles Booth's *Life and Labour in London*, in the course of which he stated that "The only contributor with any literary talent is Miss Beatrice Potter "